

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 AGR-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00

IGA-02 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 L-03 DRC-01 /102 W

----- 059706

R 170918Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3353

INFO USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 8047

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, TH

SUBJ: WORLD FERTILIZER SITUATION: LDC PRODUCTION PROBLEMS

REF : STATE 095838

1. CHEMFERCO, THE THAI GOVERNMENT FERTILIZER PLANT, WAS DESIGNED AND EQUIPPED BY LINDE, A WEST GERMAN COMPANY. THE PLANT, WHICH USES LIGNITE AS A FEED STOCK AND POWER SOURCE, HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO PRODUCE TO FULL CAPACITY AND HAS BEEN UNPROFITABLE SINCE ITS COMPLETION IN 1966. CHEMFERCO INFORMED EMBOFF THAT A MR. GUTZMER FROM LINDE OF GERMANY RECENTLY VISITED BANGKOK FOR A FEW DAYS TO CONSULT WITH CHEMFERCO ON ITS PROBLEMS.

### 2. PLANT CAPACITY:

AMMONIUM SULPHATE 60,000 METRIC TONS

UREA 30,000 " "

TOTAL 90,000 " "

### PLANT PRODUCTION 1973:

AMMONIUM SULPHATE 18,829 METRIC TONS

UREA 3,828 " "

TOTAL 22,657 " "

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3. EMBASSY DISCUSSED SUBJECT MAY 13 WITH DR. PAUL STANGEL,

VISITING USAID/TVA ADVISOR FROM JAKARTA, WHO EXPRESSED OPINION THAT CHEMFERCO WOULD NOT MEET SIZE CRITERIA SUGGESTED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTEL. MOREOVER, SINCE CHEMFERCO PLANT IS BASED ON OUTMODED PRE-1960 TECHNOLOGY, HE DOUBTED IT COULD EVER BECOME ECONOMICALLY VIABLE. HOWEVER, SINCE RTG HAS RECENTLY REQUESTED USG ASSISTANCE IN MEETING COUNTRY'S FERTILIZER NEEDS, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT ANY AVAILABLE AID-FINANCED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ALSO BE CONSIDERED FOR THAILAND. ONE POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE PROVIDING TECHNICAL ADVICE ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A FERTILIZER MIXING PLANT, ALTHOUGH SUCH POSSIBILITY HAS NOT BEEN SUGGESTED TO RTG. IN THIS REGARD, A JOINT VENTURE MIXING PLANT BETWEEN CHEMFERCO AND JAPAN'S CENTRAL GLASS COMPANY HAD BEEN ENVISAGED UNTIL DECEMBER 1973 WHEN MINISTRY OF FINANCE WITHDREW CHEMFERCO'S PARTICIPATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH NEW FERTILIZER IMPORT LIBERALIZATION POLICY. MASTERS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** WORLD FERTILIZER SITUATION: LDC PRODUCTION PROBLEMS  
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**To:** STATE  
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